

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046823
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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:DCGOODMAN

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

S E C R E T STATE 046823

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 1559 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 15.

QUOTE S E C R E T USNATO 01559

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, UR, FI

SUBJECT: NAC DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET-FINNISH TREATY

1. SPARKED BY DISCUSSION OF FRG PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY DURING THE 14 FEBRUARY PERMREP LUNCH(SEPTEL), HARDY(CANADA), SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE COUNCIL TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON THE SOVIET-FINNISH TREATY. NOTING
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PAGE 02 STATE 046823

THAT THE TREATY WAS, OF COURSE, A PARTICULARLY DELICATE SUBJECT, HARDY THOUGHT WE MIGHT TRY SOME ANALYSIS AS TO THE LEVEL OF INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL PRESSURE WHICH WOULD ACTIVATE THE SOVIETS AND LEAD THEM TO INVOKE THE TREATY.

2. SVART(DENMARK) STRESSED THAT THIS ISSUE, IF ADDRESSED AT ALL, MUST BE DISCUSSED IN GREAT SECRECY TO AVOID

ANY POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO FINLAND. THERE WAS
GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SHOULD THE COUNCIL PURSUE THE
ISSUE, IT WOULD DO SO ONLY IN A SPECIAL PRIVATE SESSION
OF AMBASSADORS.

3. COMMENT: WE SEE SOME VALUE IN A CAREFUL REVIEW OF
THIS NORTHERN FLANK ISSUE WHICH COULD ILLUMINATE THE
LEVEL OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. HOWEVER, TO
AVOID EMBARRASSING THE FINNS IN THE EVENT OF ANY LEAK,
WE COULD SUGGEST THAT A PRIVATE PERMREPS MEETING EXAMINE
THE QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF A REVIEW OF SOVIET POLICY
TOWARD THE BALTIC REGION WITH A TACIT UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD FINLAND WOULD BE
INCLUDED IN THE EXAMINATION. END COMMENT.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
BENNETT UNQUOTE VANCE

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